

## AMENDMENTS

### Amendments to the Disclosure

There is a typographical error in the specification as filed. Accordingly, please replace paragraph [0052] with the following amended paragraph:

[0052] In individual cases, if it is assumed that all capacitances and resistances determining the discharge are combined together in a time constant T, the following is afforded for the autoshort voltage:

$$\left[ \left[ V_{auto}(t) = V_{auto} e^{\left(\frac{1}{T}\right)} \right] \right] \frac{V_{auto}(t) = V_0 e^{\left(-\frac{t}{T}\right)}}{V_{auto}}. \text{ That is to say, } \frac{dV_{auto}}{dt} \frac{1}{V_{auto}} = -\frac{1}{T}$$

is thus inversely proportional to the time constant. After that conversion of the signal it is possible to determine a variation in the time constant, for example with an adaptive threshold value process. When such a process is adopted for example a sliding mean value of the derived and standardised curve is formed. If a value of that curve exceeds the sliding mean value by a predetermined threshold value a change in the time constant is recognised.